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Request for Expressions of Interest and Information
Maryland's Offshore Wind Energy Deployment Strategy

I. DESCRIPTION:

This is a Request for Expressions of Interest and Information from wind energy developers interested in constructing wind energy generation facilities in the Atlantic Ocean areas adjacent to Maryland's coast. It is not a solicitation or request for proposals that will result in a contractual relationship with the State or commit the State or any of its agencies to enter into a further agreement with any respondent. It should be considered a request for information that will assist the State and the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to assess the State's options for off-shore development of its wind resources. MEA encourages additional information from developers that may wish the State to consider 'advanced concepts' to include in its comprehensive offshore wind energy deployment strategy.

II. OBJECTIVE:

MEA seeks to determine which entities have an interest in developing off-shore wind energy generation using the abundant renewable wind energy available in areas along Maryland's Atlantic coast and whether the entities have specific proposals that the State might consider in developing its strategies for developing its off shore wind resources. MEA is seeking input from the interested parties as to the preferred capacities, technologies, water depths and any other unique or advanced approaches of deployment. Further, MEA is seeking information that would assist the State evaluate potential partnership approaches with developers and welcomes advance notice of any topics of concern.

III. BACKGROUND:

MEA is a unit within the executive branch of the State of Maryland. Among other responsibilities, MEA's mission is to promote affordable, reliable and clean energy to fuel Maryland's prosperity. MEA seeks to maximize energy efficiency while promoting economic development, reducing reliance on foreign energy supplies, and improving the environment. In carrying out this mission, MEA advises the Governor on directions, policies and changes in the various segments of the energy market and their effect on Maryland.

Under Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), at least 20 percent of the retail sales of electricity in the State must come from Tier 1 renewable sources by 2022. Even with expected improvements in energy efficiency as well as robust growth in other renewable sectors, Maryland expects to require the additional generation of over 7,500 GWh of electricity by 2022. Maryland seeks to develop an in-state renewable generation ability to fulfill some or this entire projected shortfall.

Maryland's Atlantic coast and the adjacent federal waters are areas of substantial energy potential. Situated in the Mid-Atlantic Bight, MEA believes that the wind resources in Maryland's coastal waters may be among the best in the nation. Accordingly, Maryland supports the efforts of the Department of Interior's Mineral

Management Service (MMS), which has developed a set of guidelines for leasing of specific blocks of federal ocean territory. Maryland will continue to work with the MMS to form a state/federal task force to structure a leasing arrangement that will provide Maryland with access to the energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf. Additionally, Maryland is seeking to explore offshore wind energy resources to capture the economic development, air quality, public health, greenhouse gas reduction and environmental benefits of domestic generation.

Maryland is a natural hub for advanced renewable energy technologies such as offshore wind. The State enjoys strong manufacturing and supply chain capabilities as well as a very educated workforce. Many advanced energy technologies have emerged from the University of Maryland. The port and shipyards of Baltimore are well situated staging grounds for offshore wind energy deployment infrastructure. Maryland has a significant coastal population with a growing need for clean energy. To evaluate its off-shore wind resources, MEA will assemble relevant data that will provide a consolidated report for siting evaluation.

Therefore, Maryland is asking companies or consortia with expertise in offshore renewable energy development to submit responses to the Maryland Energy Administration by **January 31st, 2010**. Submission of information in response to this request implies no commitment by companies, consortia or the State of Maryland nor does it obligate the State to reimburse respondents for the expense of preparation of their submission.

IV. RESPONDENT INFORMATION

Interested parties should submit a statement containing the following details:

a. Company or consortia members and company address ;
b. The name and contact details of a nominated company or consortia representative;
c. Brief summary of respondent's background and relevant experience;

V. QUESTIONS FOR RESPONDENTS

a. What is your view of the optimum scope of development of offshore wind energy project, including nameplate capacity and alternative deployment options?
    1. Should the State conduct deployment of offshore wind as a single deployment or in phases?
b. What is your view of the most favorable geographic area of development, including shallow water, deep water or a combination of approaches?
c. What technology are you considering for deployment, including any of the following?
    1. Advanced turbine design;
    2. Advanced methods of installation;
    3. Foundation structure design, including support structures capable of installation in depths of 50 feet or more;
d. What types of economic development impact do you envisions, including the following?
    1. Local skill sets needed;
    2. Tourism effects;
    3. Impacts on local economy and job creation opportunities;
    4. Impacts on commercial fishing and navigation;

e. What do you consider to be the most effective strategy for PJM interconnection? Please address any of the following:
    1. Transmission options, including the use of AC or DC cables;
    2. Need for an offshore substation or converter stations;
    3. Any specific interconnection requirements;

f. What are the most significant financial challenges to development of Maryland's offshore wind resources? What factors that would facilitate Maryland's offshore wind energy development, including any of the following?
    1. Minimum long-term contract required to support financing plan;
    2. Concepts for public/private partnership;
    3. Recommendations on terms of service procurement;
    4. Pricing structures;
    5. Correlation between length of service and cost;
    6. Commercial availability of components;

VI. REQUIREMENTS FOR RESPONSE:

Prospective developers interested in participating in the strategy process should submit a response to this Request for Expression of Interest and Information with the above requested information to:

Maryland's Off-shore Wind Energy Initiative
Maryland Energy Administration
1623 Forest Dr., #300
Annapolis, MD 21403

Two (2) hard copies of responses are required with accompanying electronic submittal (optional). Deadline for submittal of Expressions of Interest is 3:00 PM local time, February 28, 2010. Questions should be directed via e-mail to: offshorewind@energy.state.md.us.

NOTICE:

Responses are subject to Maryland's Public Information Act as set forth in Sections 10-610 et seq. of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and the confidentiality provisions of the PIA will apply to all submissions. Any information that is submitted pursuant to this request that the submitting entity considers proprietary or confidential information must be expressly identified as such and clearly marked.